



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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State Awards \$219,835 in Training Acceleration Grants

INDIANAPOLIS (May 5, 2006) -- The Indiana Department of Workforce Development and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation have awarded \$219,835 in Training Acceleration Grants to six Indiana companies and consortia.

The Training Acceleration Grant program provides financial assistance to companies and organizations seeking to expand the skills of their existing workforce through training programs that result in industry-recognized credentials. This grant program is one of the state's primary job training programs offered to Indiana businesses.

"The Training Acceleration Grant helps ensure that the Indiana workforce is globally competitive," said Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "Through these grants, Hoosier workers receive training that positions them for higher wages and improves the competitiveness of their employers."

"We're especially pleased to see small businesses taking greater advantage of these grant opportunities. Governor Daniels has said that our training programs need to be more accessible and user-friendly to Indiana's small employers, and we have taken steps to ensure this is the case," said Stiver.

"The Training Acceleration Grant program plays an important role in assisting Hoosier businesses build a more competitive workforce by increasing worker skills and marketability at a time when economic growth and diversification are top priorities," said Michael S. Maurer, Secretary of Commerce and president of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

The program has four core objectives: promoting small businesses; fostering job retention and expansion; increasing personal income for Hoosier workers; and providing training to address skill gaps in the Hoosier workforce.

The following firms were awarded grants:

<u>Employer</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Trainees</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Frontline Logic LLC	Kokomo	Howard	5	5	Stellent Content Server Techn. Cert., Stellent Web Content Mgmt. Tech. Cert.	\$17,500
Medtronic Sofamor Danek	Warsaw	Kosciusko	520	3	Assoc./Bach. Degrees	\$6,999.92
Grimmer Industries	Franklin	Johnson	74	32	NIST MEP -Adv. Mfg. Cert.	\$53,900
Hammond Group, Inc	Hammond	Lake	160	3	Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer	\$20,985

Shelby County Life Learning*	Shelbyville	Shelby	1043	22	Indus. Maint. Phase I & II	\$108,451
Twoson Tool	Muncie	Delaware	83	4	CNC Program Certification	\$12,000

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve worker skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

As a result of legislation passed by the Indiana General Assembly in February, 2005, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation replaced the Department of Commerce as the premier entity charged with state economic development. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation has a 12-member board chaired by Governor Mitch Daniels.

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*Shelby County Life Learning is a consortia that represents these five Shelbyville companies: Freudenberg NOK; O'Neal Steel; PK USA, Inc.; Plastic Moldings Co., LLC; and Plymate, Inc.